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It has appeared wise to the Dutch administration of Borneo, of whose methods Lumholtz speaks highly, to prevent the Malay pressure on the wild tribes, not only to preserve them for scientific study but with the knowledge that they become of less value to the Government when mongrelized. Lumholtz brings out a very interesting feature in changes which have occurred in portions of forest tribes at the river heads who have come in contact with somewhat more advanced tribes down river.

Lumholtz disposes finally of such myths as those regarding tailed peoples and white Borneans.

In the appendix are collected 23 folk tales of some of the tribes visited by the author and special notes on various tribes. There is a good map showing the author's journeys. The photographic illustrations are numerous and excellent.

Some of the topics treated are: Climatic and biological conditions; population; racial problems; meeting Punans, the shy jungle people; Malays versus Dyaks; Kenyas from Central Borneo; funeral ceremonies; priest doctors; feasts; weddings; the Penyah-bongs, men of the woods; the Saputans; ear piercing; among the Penihings; Punans and Bukats, simple minded nomads; a burial cave; omen birds; religious ideas; head-hunting, its practice and purpose; characteristics of the Long-Glats; natives' superiority to civilized man; tatuing the whole body; the flying boat; facts about the Ulu-Ots, the wild men of Borneo; the belief in tailed people; the legend of the ancestor of tailed men; the practice of incision.

WALTER HOUGH

### MISCELLANEOUS

*L'Eternuement et le Bâillement dans la Magie, l'Ethnographie et le Folklore Médical.* P. SAINTYVES. Pp. 143. Paris, 1921.

This little book will be found handy to consult by anyone who, from the point-of-view of ethnography, is interested in the subject of omens. It presents a large amount of remote or esoteric information on sneezing and the kindred phenomenon of yawning as viewed by primitive people and country-folk.

As a corpus of information the book is altogether replete. Its matter, however, is hardly digested. M. Saintyves himself acknowledges the brevity of the comments in which he discusses the features which form the bulk of his book. Such attempts at discussion, he says, "aim to throw light upon that well-known course of evolution

which, starting from a sort of undifferentiated animism, passes over to a spiritistic pluralism and finally finds its goal in naturalism, without, however, precluding lights cast from the point-of-view of a unitarian theology." Such a program we are at a loss to discuss. Its impressiveness cannot fail to strike the reader who may deplore with us that a fuller commentary has not been made part integral of the book.

M. Saintyves's opinion is, in one instance, that the salutations offered to the sneezing person have a twofold origin, physiological and philosophical. The quasi-incoercibility of sneezing led man to single it out as an unusual manifestation among the other issues of the spirit to which he found himself liable. On the other hand sneezing pertains to the head and as such commands a due share of the attention which this sacred part of man's body receives among some primitive peoples. Such generalizations, however philosophically plausible, always raise a wish that the various areas in which this or that type of explanation obtains be more coherently pointed out.

It is interesting to read that some analogy was perceived by the ancients between sneezing and epilepsy. A fit of sneezing was construed as a milder manifestation of the *morbus sacer*. An epileptic fit often terminates by sneezing. Hence have some modern physicians been led to provoke sneezing in the patient to hasten the termination of the fit.

There remains, as one goes over the pages of the book, no aspect of culture which a study of this kind might leave untouched, so multifarious were the meanings put on sneezing. It is to be regretted that M. Saintyves does not bring his views to a more incisive point of formulation. His book stands with the practical qualities, but also the magnified limitations of an encyclopaedia article grown beyond its limits.

P. L. FAYE

#### SOME NEW PUBLICATIONS

Adametz, Leopold. *Herkunft und Wanderungen der Hamiten, erschlossen aus ihren Haustierrassen*. Wien: Verlag des Forschungsinstitutes für Osten und Orient, 1920. 107 pp., 24 pls.

Armitage, F. A. *Diet and Race; Anthropological Essays*. Longmans, Green and Co.: London & New York, 1922. 144 pp.

Baudouin, Marcel. *Astronomie préhistorique: Les représentations matérielles sur pierre de la Grande Ourse, à la Pierre polie*.